

CHAPTER II

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMMAND AND CONTROL OF JOINT AIR OPERATIONS

“Air power is indivisible. If you split it up into compartments, you merely pull it to pieces and destroy its greatest asset—its flexibility.”

Field Marshal Montgomery

1. Air Effort Available for Joint Air Operations

The air capabilities/forces made available for JFACC or JFC (under the JFC staff option) planning and tasking are determined by the JFC, in consultation with component commanders, and based on the assigned objectives and concept of operations.

a. Component commanders make capabilities/forces available to the JFC for tasking to support the joint force as a whole based on assigned component missions and JFC guidance. These capabilities/forces are tasked directly by the JFC or by the JFACC based on the JFC’s air apportionment decision.

b. **Only the JFC has the authority to reassign, redirect, or reallocate a component’s direct support air**

capabilities/forces. When a component does not have the organic air capabilities/forces to support their assigned mission, the JFACC or JFC will task available joint air capabilities/forces (through the joint ATO) based on the JFC’s air apportionment decision. An understanding of what defines component direct support air capabilities/forces and joint air capabilities/forces is necessary.

Component direct support air capabilities/forces are those air capabilities/forces organic to a component that are used by the component to accomplish its assigned mission. When appropriate, they appear on the joint ATO for coordination and deconfliction purposes.



AV-8 Aircraft

c. Component capabilities/forces not available for joint air tasking must still comply with the airspace control order (ACO) and special instructions (SPINS).

2. Designation of a JFACC

The JFC will normally designate a JFACC. The JFC will base the decision to designate a JFACC on several factors such as: JFC's overall mission, concept of operations, the missions and tasks assigned to subordinate commanders, forces available, duration and nature of joint air operations desired, and the degree of unity of command and control of joint air operations required. **The JFC will normally assign JFACC responsibilities to the component commander having the preponderance of air assets and the capability to plan, task, and control joint air operations.**

3. JFACC Authority and Command Relationships

The authority and command relationships of the JFACC are established by the JFC. These typically include exercising **operational control (OPCON over assigned and attached forces and tactical control (TACON) over other military capabilities/forces made available for tasking.** The JFC may also establish supporting and supported relationships between components to facilitate operations. The JFC normally assigns missions and issues mission-type orders to all components. **With receipt of the mission goes the authority to conduct operations in accordance with the JFC's intent and concept of the operation.**

4. JFACC responsibilities

The responsibilities of the JFACC are assigned by the JFC. These include, but are not limited to: **planning, coordination, allocation, and tasking of joint air operations based on the JFC's concept of operations and air apportionment decision.** Specific JFACC responsibilities normally include (also shown in Figure II-1):

- a. **Developing a joint air operations plan** to best support joint force objectives as assigned by the JFC or higher authority.
- b. **Recommending to the JFC apportionment of the joint air effort,** after consulting with other component commanders, by percentage and/or by priority that should be devoted to the various air operations and/or geographic areas for a given period of time.
- c. **Providing centralized direction** for the allocation and tasking of capabilities/forces made available based on the JFC air apportionment.
- d. **Controlling execution of joint air operations as specified by the JFC,** to include making timely adjustments to targeting and tasking of available joint capabilities/forces. **If circumstances require the JFACC to change the planned joint air operations during execution, the JFACC will notify the affected component commanders or JFC, as appropriate.**
- e. **Coordinating joint air operations with operations of other component commanders and forces assigned to or supporting the JFC** [e.g., combat search and rescue (CSAR) operations, the joint force special operations component commander (JFSOCC), and if designated, the joint special operations air component commander (JSOACC) for integration, synchronization, and deconfliction with special operations].

f. **Evaluating the results of joint air operations** and forwarding combat assessments to the JFC to support the overall combat assessment effort.

g. **Performing the duties of the airspace control authority (ACA)**, when assigned that responsibility by the JFC.

h. **Performing the duties of the area air defense commander (AADC)**, when assigned that responsibility by the JFC.

i. **Functioning as the supported commander** for:

- Counterair operations.
- Strategic attack operations, when joint air operations constitute the bulk of the capability needed to directly attack enemy strategic centers of gravity.

- Theater airborne reconnaissance and surveillance.
- The JFC's overall air interdiction effort.

** Interdiction target priorities within the land or naval force areas of operations (AOs) are designated by the land and naval component commanders.

** These priorities are considered along with the JFC's AOR/JOA-wide interdiction priorities and reflected in the air apportionment decision. The JFACC will use these priorities to plan and execute the AOR/JOA-wide interdiction effort.

j. **Functioning as a supporting commander**, as directed by the JFC, for operations such as close air support, air interdiction within the land and naval component AOs, and maritime support.

JFACC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Developing a joint air operations plan to best support joint force objectives
- Recommending to the JFC apportionment of the joint air effort, after consulting with other component commanders
- Providing centralized direction for the allocation and tasking of capabilities/forces made available
- Controlling execution of joint operations as specified by the JFC
- Coordinating joint air operations with operations of other component commanders and forces assigned to or supporting the JFC
- Evaluating the results of joint air operations
- When assigned by the JFC, performing the duties of the airspace control authority (ACA) and/or performing the duties of the area air defense commander (AADC)
- Functioning as a supported and supporting commander, as directed by the JFC

Figure II-1. JFACC Responsibilities